CHAPTER XIII

THE CHINESE

RACIAL COMPOSITION

RACIALLY the Chinese are a mixed people. That much we know. We have definite records of many invasions of the fertile valleys and plains of North China by non-Chinese stocks from the less favored regions on the north, northeast, and west. Whenever one of these incursions led to a prolonged or extensive occupation of territory— as numbers of them did— it must have been followed by an infiltration of the blood of the conquerors into that of the conquered. Knowing as we do the names of at least the chief of these invaders, we can be aware in a general way of some of the more potent strains which in the past two thousand or twenty-five hundred years have mingled with whatever may have been the Chinese stock or stocks at the dawn of recorded history. Hsiung Nu, Turks of various kinds, several branches of the Mongols, Tanguts, and Tungusic peoples, including the Juchen and the Manchus— to mention only so^ of the more prominent — each occupied part or all of No™ China. Each must have made a more or less permanent contribution to the population of the region. It is also a commonplace that the Chinese are bordered to-day as they have been for centuries by non-Chinese of many kinds — such as the Koreans, the Mongols, the Tibetans, the Miao, the Lo-lo, and the Mo-so — with almost inevitable intermixture.

We do not know, however, all the racial strains

which have entered to form the Chinese of to-day, nor are we sure of the relationships among many of the stocks of whose names we are aware. That is chiefly because we are not certain of all the components of the population of what is now China at the dawn of the historic period. It is not yet clear, for example, whether the earliest civilized Chinese were a mixture — even though,